

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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March 29, 2013

Addressing Disparities in Southern Maryland



MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

Earlier this week, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown announced that the Greater Lexington Park Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) will receive \$750,000 in state

funding to help reduce health disparities in the area. MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown will partner with community organizations to manage the HEZ. The hospital plans to create a new community health care center and add primary care practitioners, social workers and a psychiatrist.

The HEZ Initiative is a four-year pilot program with an annual budget of \$4 million. The purposes of the program include reducing health disparities among geographic areas and racial minorities, improving health care access and health outcomes in underserved communities and reducing hospital admissions, readmissions and health care costs. Community coalitions embracing the initiative receive a range of benefits, incentives and grant funding to address persistent health disparities.

The proposal for the Greater Lexington Park Area strives to improve public health outcomes in the Lexington Park, Park Hall and Great Hills communities of St. Mary's county, all of which have severe shortages of primary care physicians. The proposal also includes making a 16-mile "health care transportation route" addressing health care access barriers in underserved communities. These changes aim to reduce preventable hospital emergency visits, admissions and readmissions for chronic diseases.

Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

Click [here](#) for more information on the HEZ initiative.

Opportunities to Expand Active Transportation Options in MD Sustainable Communities



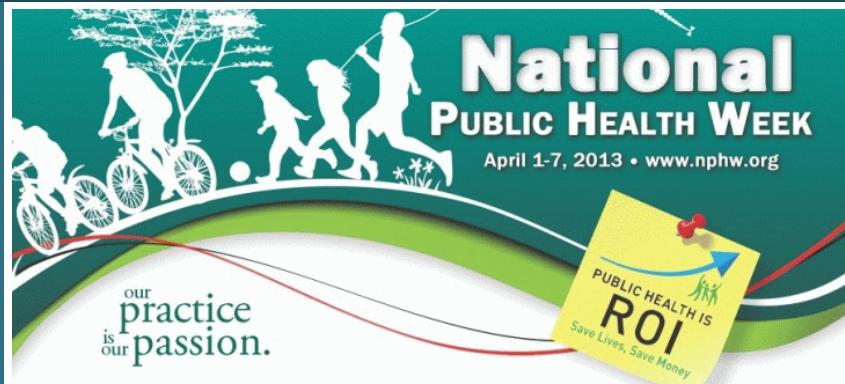
Providing more non-motorized transportation choices is beneficial for health. Having more places to play and the option to get around by walking and biking creates more ways for active transportation and encourages exercise and healthy lifestyles. The [Community Legacy program](#) under the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD), funds recreation and transportation-related projects, particularly around transit centers in Maryland Sustainable Communities.

DHCD will provide 25,000 to the Garrett County Community Action Committee to help construct a walking/biking trail in Oakland, connecting one of the town's parks to the historic Fort Alice site. This new trail will expand an existing network of scenic trails and will be American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

In Prince George's County the Community Legacy program is awarding \$25,000 to purchase and install over 150 bike racks throughout Mount Rainier. The bike racks will be close to the transit station and city hall, giving transit riders and residents the choice to make trips without a car.

Grants and other funding are available through the Department if the project is located in a State-designated Sustainable Community. For more information on the designation, consult the [Sustainable Communities website](#) or [click here](#) to e-mail Mary Kendall.

National Public Health Week



National Public Health Week (NPHW), sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA), will take place April 1-7. The week will mobilize hundreds of communities across the country in celebrating the contributions of a strong public health system in helping protect and improve our nation's health.

Each year, NPHW focuses its effort on a different theme. The 2013 theme is "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money." This theme was developed to highlight the value of prevention and the importance of well-supported public health systems in preventing disease, saving lives and curbing health care spending.

To celebrate NPHW as an individual, make just one positive change a day to improve your health. Eating healthy foods, participating in regular physical activity, avoiding tobacco, and staying up to date on recommended vaccines can make an immense difference in helping you live a longer, healthier life. You'll notice the return on your investment.

Click [here](#) to learn more and get involved.

Webinar: Tobacco Education for Oral Health Providers

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. EST

The [National Association of Community Health Centers](#) and Break Free Alliance are sponsoring a free webinar to provide oral health providers with the knowledge and skills to address tobacco use with patients including:



- The impact that tobacco use has on oral health;
- Why oral health providers are an important player in

- helping patients quit;
- How oral health providers can play a role in addressing tobacco use including a discussion of tobacco products, communication tools and treatment options; and
 - How to implement a treatment service plan in the dental practice.

Click [here](#) to register.

News from the Office of Primary Care

The National TeleNursing Center is Looking for Partners

The Office for Victims of Crime and the National Institute of Justice awarded funds to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to develop a national telemedicine center that provides 24/7 access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. MDPH has issued a Request for Response (RFR) for three sites serving priority populations (rural, tribal and corrections) to partner with the National TeleNursing Center. If you are interested in responding to this request, please click [here](#). For instructions, click [here](#) to e-mail Christine Murphy.

The 2013 NHSC Scholarship Program Application Cycle is Now Open

The 2013 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program application cycle is now open! The deadline to apply is May 14, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. EST. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.